IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated herein below.

1. (currently amended) A method for maintaining parameter data in a computing system, comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a text file of ~~parameter~~ meta data for parameters;

(b) representing said text file as a Graphical User Interface (GUI) having a navigator panel and an edit panel, wherein the navigator panel shows, for the text file, a structure for the parameters;

(b1) showing in the edit panel, responsive to a user selecting one of the parameters in the navigator panel:

the one of the parameters in a parameter field~~s~~, and

~~for each parameter field, having~~ one or more attribute sub-fields for the selected one of the parameters, each of said sub-fields being text editable;

and

(c) storing attribute text entered in any said sub-field to a data store.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, whereby, in step (a), creation of said text file is performed using the Extensible Markup Language (XML).

3. (original) The method of claim 2, whereby said XML text file includes as URI that specifies a database protocol and location, and said URI is utilized in step (c).

4. (currently amended) The method of clam 2, comprising the further step, wherein step (b) comprises: ~~following step (b), of:~~

calling any existing attribute data from said data store for said sub-fields to be displayed by said GUI.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, whereby step (b) is performed by use of Java code.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, comprising the further step, after step (b) said GUI, calling a subset of said text file, corresponding to a parameter to be displayed.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A client-server computing system comprising:

(a) one or more client processor machines, each having a visual display, and operating a Graphical User Interface (GUI);

(b) a server machine running an application program that utilises parameter meta data to represent data passed between said client machines and said server;

(c) a communications link between each said client and arranged such that each said client machine can communicate with said server; and

wherein said server includes a data store containing a text file of parameter meta data, and said GUI receives said text file and displays ~~it~~ on ~~a~~ said client machine a navigator panel and an edit panel, wherein the navigator panel shows, for the text file, a structure for the parameters and the edit panel shows, responsive to a user selecting one of the parameters in the navigator panel, the one of the parameters in a ~~as a plurality of~~ parameter field and ~~s each said field having~~ one or more attribute sub-fields for the selected one of the parameters, each said sub-field being text editable, and further wherein any attribute text entered in a said sub-field is stored in said server data store.

9. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein said GUI also displays any existing attribute data retrieved from said data store.

10. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein said text file is created using XML.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein said GUI utilises Java code to display said XML file.

12 through 17 (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A computing device comprising:

(a) processor means running an application program that utilises parameter meta data;

(b) a visual display operating a Graphical User Interface (GUI) under ~~the~~ control of said processor means;

(c) data storage means, containing a text file of parameter meta data under the control of said processor means; and

wherein said GUI receives said text file from said data storage means and displays ~~it~~ on the visual display a navigator panel and an edit panel, wherein the navigator panel shows, for the text file, a structure for the parameters and the edit panel shows, responsive to a user selecting one of the parameters in the navigator panel, the one of the parameters in a ~~as a plurality of~~ parameter field and ~~s, each said field having~~ one or more attribute sub-fields for the selected one of the parameters, each said sub-field being text editable, and further wherein any attribute text entered in a said sub-field is stored in said data storage means.

19. (original) The computing device of claim 18, wherein said GUI also displays any existing attribute data retrieved from said data store.

20. (original) The computing device of claim 19, wherein said text file is created using XML.

21. (original) The computing device of claim 20, wherein said GUI utilises Java code to display said XML file.

22. (new) A computer program product comprising a body of computer code embodied in a computer medium for maintaining parameter data in a computing system, the computer code comprises:

(a) instructions for receiving a text file of meta data for parameters;

(b) instructions for representing said text file as a Graphical User Interface (GUI) having a navigator panel and an edit panel, wherein the navigator panel shows, for the text file, a structure for the parameters;

(b1) instructions for showing in the edit panel, responsive to a user selecting one of the parameters in the navigator panel:

the one of the parameters in a parameter field, and

one or more attribute sub-fields for the selected one of the parameters, each of said sub-fields being text editable;

and

(c) storing attribute text entered in any said sub-field to a data store.

23. (new) The computer program product of claim 22, whereby, in instructions (a), creation of said text file is performed using the Extensible Markup Language (XML).

24. (new) The computer program product of claim 23, whereby said XML text file includes as URI that specifies a database protocol and location, and said URI is utilized in step (c).

25. (new) The computer program product of clam 23, wherein instructions (b1) comprise:

instructions for calling any existing attribute data from said data store for said sub-fields to be displayed by said GUI.

26. (new) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein instructions (b) and (b1) are performed by use of Java code.

27. (new) The computer program product of claim 1, wherein instructions (b1) comprise:

calling a subset of said text file, corresponding to a parameter to be displayed.

28. (new) The system of claim 8, wherein said client machine calls any existing attribute data from said data store for said sub-fields to be displayed by said GUI.